

Appln No. 09/995,483
Amdt date November 27, 2006
Reply to Office action of August 28, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

In the claims, amend claims 48, 49, 82, 84, 87, 88, 91 and 95 as follows:

48. (Thrice Amended) An insert having an annular section for use with a cap for capping a bottle having a rim defining a bottle mouth, the insert allowing for the venting of gases generated in a bottle when the cap is capping the bottle, the annular section defining an opening and comprising:

a first surface opposite a second surface; and

a groove formed on the first surface, wherein when the cap is capping the bottle, a first portion of the groove extends beyond a first location external of the rim and a second portion of the groove extends beyond a second location external of the rim wherein said first location is spaced apart from said second location, and wherein the insert opening extends through an entire thickness of the insert.

49. (Thrice Amended) An insert having an annular section for use with a cap for capping a bottle having a rim defining a bottle mouth, the insert allowing for the venting of gases generated in a bottle when the cap is capping the bottle, the annular section defining an opening and comprising:

a first surface opposite a second surface; and

a groove formed on the first surface, wherein when the cap is capping the bottle, a first portion of the groove extends beyond a first location external of the rim and a second portion of the groove extends beyond a second location external of the rim wherein said first location is spaced apart from said second location, wherein the opening extends through an entire thickness of the insert, and wherein the insert is made of plastic.

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82. (Currently Amended) A vented bottle cap system comprising:
a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth;
a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an annular wall having an
inner surface and extending from the top portion, the annular wall surrounding the rim; and
an insert having an annular section, the annular section being sandwiched between
the rim and the cap, the insert allowing for the venting of gases generated in the bottle, the
annular section defining an opening and comprising,
a first surface opposite a second surface, and
a groove formed on the first surface, a first portion of the groove extends
beyond a first location external of the rim and a second portion of the groove extends beyond a
second location external of the rim wherein said first location is spaced apart from said second
location, and wherein the insert opening extends through the entire insert.

84. (Currently Amended) An insert having an annular section for use with a
cap for capping a bottle having a rim defining a bottle mouth, the insert allowing for the venting
of gases generated in a bottle when the cap is capping the bottle, the annular section defining an
opening and comprising:
a first surface opposite a second surface; and
a non-linear path formed on the first surface, wherein when the cap is capping the
bottle, wherein the insert opening extends through the entire insert, and wherein said path
provides a passage for the venting of gases.

87. (Currently Amended) A vented bottle cap system comprising:
a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth;
a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an annular wall having an
inner surface and extending from the top portion, wherein when the cap is capping the bottle

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neck a first gas path is formed between the outer surface of the bottle neck and the inner surface of the annular wall;

a venting member sandwiched between the cap inner surface and the rim, the venting member having an annular section defining an opening extending through the entire venting member, the annular section having a first surface opposite a second surface; and

a second non-linear gas path defined on and across the first surface, wherein gas in the bottle escapes via the second gas path to the first gas path.

88. (Currently Amended) A system as recite in claim 87 wherein the second gas path extends to the opening.

91. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 87 wherein the first surface faces the top portion inner surface.

95. (Currently Amended) A vented bottle cap system comprising as recited in claim 94 a third non-linear gas path formed on the inner surface, wherein gas formed on in the bottle escape via the third gas path to the first gas path.